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GRANT PROVIDES CONTINUED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES IN GLENDALE

Glendale, Ariz. —Nearly one-third of American women report being assaulted by a current or former partner at some point in their lives, according to information provided by the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Last year in Arizona, at least 96 people died as a result of a domestic violence related homicide. Each year, thousands of American children also witness partner violence within their families. Witnessing violence is a risk factor for long-term physical and mental health problems, including alcohol and substance abuse, being a victim of abuse, and perpetrating intimate partner violence. Recently Glendale's City Council authorized the acceptance of a two-year \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women to continue funding several domestic violence victim services and add program enhancements.

The Glendale Domestic Violence Task Force was formed in December 2004 to provide comprehensive responses to a wide variety of local domestic violence issues. Task Force partners include Glendale's City Court, City Prosecutor's Office, Police Department, the Glendale Family Advocacy Center, A New Leaf, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department. The Task Force has endorsed a collaborative partnership to seek funding for various victim services and program enhancements.

Since 2005, Glendale City Court has worked with Glendale Domestic Violence Task Force members to submit three successful grant proposals to the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. The new \$300,000 grant in addition to prior grants of \$1.2 million bring the total to \$1.5 million since 2005. The past grants have included the following services:

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GRANT

Add 1-1-1-1

- A full-time, grant-funded protective order service coordinator who facilitates timely service of protective orders in Glendale and nine other area cities. This position is designed to achieve higher success rates of service and reductions in length of time for service to improve the safety and wellbeing of domestic violence victims.
- A full-time, grant-funded court compliance specialist who manages, coordinates and expands the activities of a treatment court calendar, which specializes in monitoring domestic violence defendants' compliance with all Court orders.
- A full-time, contracted court-based victim advocate who educates and assists court customers seeking protective orders and connects those customers with community resources and victim rights information.
- Overtime compensation for Glendale Police officers to facilitate the service of active domestic violence arrest warrants.
- Salary for a judge pro tempore to preside over ex parte and contested protective order matters providing service during lunch hours.
- Mandatory training opportunities required by the funding authority to enhance the professional development and education of Glendale domestic violence specialists through attendance at national domestic violence conferences.

Glendale City Court will use the \$300,000 grant to continue supporting all of these services, with the exception of the court compliance specialist, which is now sustained through a separate fund. Instead, the following two grant-funded services will be added:

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GRANT

Add 2-2-2-2

- A new full-time, grant-funded high danger victim advocate to work within the Glendale Police Department's Family Violence Unit. In addition to providing all standard victim services, this advocacy specialist will respond to crime scenes with detectives for interviews, home visits and safety planning within 72 hours of identifying an extreme case where the victim is at great risk for serious injury or death. The advocate will keep the victim involved in prosecution efforts and conduct regular follow-up intervention in various forms throughout the life of the case.
- The development of innovative police reports specific to domestic violence to be utilized by Glendale officers taking the initial report in the field. These new reports will require responding officers to obtain critical high lethality and coercive control information regarding the victim's relationship with the suspect. This information will help identify the most dangerous domestic violence offenders in our community. These enhanced reports will list requirements for collection of domestic violence case details and evidence. The added information will further assist detectives and prosecutors in gaining criminal convictions in domestic violence cases. The victim's copy of the report will include directions to obtain protective orders. The victim's copy can also be used to show proof of the police report necessary for early rental-lease termination available per Arizona Revised Statutes. It also provides the victim with safety planning instructions, what steps to take next, and what future evidence to collect, preserve and report to police after the initial report is made.

"The new resources provide important tools for law enforcement in the collection of critical information for domestic violence cases. The high lethality advocate will allow police to identify relationships which result in the greatest danger to victim's lives, provide new safety resources to those victims as well as intensive investigation techniques," said Honorable Judge Elizabeth Finn.

For more about Glendale's domestic violence information or the City Court, visit

www.glendaleaz.com/court. For more information about Glendale's Police Department, visit www.glendaleaz.com/police.

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